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DRAFT

THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
WASHINGTON

DECLASSIFIED
Authority OSD 6-6-78; CIA 4-11-79
By ___, NARS, Date 8-7-79

MEMORANDUM FOR The Director
Central Intelligence Agency

In order to assist us in making contingency plans for possible increases in U.S. forces in South Vietnam, I should appreciate it if you could provide an assessment, perhaps through the special group I understand you have organized for this purpose, of the Soviet and Chicom responses to a substantial increase in our force structure in South Vietnam.

The following assumptions might be employed in making this assessment:

1 - U.S. forces would be increased from their present level of approximately 75,000 men to 175,000 by 1 November.

2 - In order to achieve this build-up without weakening our overall force structure and deployment of forces, legislation would be requested to permit call-up of Reserves and extension of tours. Under this legislation, some 225,000 Reserves would be called up, and tours would be extended, at the rate of 20,000 a month cumulatively for a year (subject to review at the end of that period).

3 - In order to permit release of Reserves and termination of extended tours, the regular strength of the Armed Services would be increased by 400,000 men over the next year.

4 - A budget supplement of between $2 and $3 billion would be sought in order to support this build-up.

5 - Draft calls would be increased by 100 percent.

In this assessment, it would be useful to have your evaluation of the effect of alternative ways of publicly presenting this build-up on Soviet and Chicom reactions.

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Since Secretary McNamara's mission to Vietnam is expected to return on or about the 22nd, and will be making its report and recommendations to the President at that time, it would be helpful to have your assessment available in conjunction with these recommendations.

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